AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following new headings before the paragraph beginning on line 4 of page 1:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

--Field of the Invention--

Please add the following new heading after the paragraph beginning on line 5 of page 1:

--Description of Related Art--

Please add the following new heading after the paragraph beginning on line 10 of page 1:

--BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Please add the following new paragraph after the paragraph beginning on line 23 of page 1:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1: Isolation of monokaryotic strain deficient in laccase activity.

Figure 2: Isolation of the gene encoding for the laccase of *Pycnoporus cinnabarinus* laccase.

Figure 3: Southern blot study of the gene encoding for the laccase of *Pycnoporus cinnabarinus*.

Figure 4: Sequence of the gene encoding for the laccase of *Pycnoporus cinnabarinus* represented by SEQ ID NO: 1.

Figure 5: Sequence of the pLac promoter sequence of the gene encoding for the laccase of *Pycnoporus cinnabarinus* (up to the ATG encoding for the methionine of the laccase), the pLac promoter being represented by SEQ ID NO: 3.

Figure 6: Restriction map of the three expression vectors pEGT, pESC, pELP, used for the production of laccase in *Pycnoporus cinnabarinus*.

Figure 7: Nucleotide sequence of the vector pEGT represented by SEQ ID NO: 12, containing the gpd gene promoter (4480-5112), a phleomycin resistance marker (507-1822) and the sc3 gene terminator (71-507).

Figure 8: Nucleotide sequence of the vector pESC represented by SEQ ID NO: 13, containing the sc3 gene promoter (1-1033), a phleomycin resistance marker (1540-2855) and the sc3 gene terminator (1104-1540).

Figure 9: Nucleotide sequence of the vector pELP represented by SEQ ID NO: 14, containing the laccase gene (promoter 4457-6983), a phleomycin resistance marker (507-1822) and the sc3 gene terminator (71-507)

Figure 10: Results of production of the transformants having the most significant activities. The culture was carried out with or without (control) ethanol.

Figure 11: Monitoring of the laccase activities of the transformants GPD 14 and 12.7 as a function of time with or (control) without ethanol.

Figure 12: Sequence of the gene encoding for the laccase of *halocyphina villosa* represented by SEQ ID NO: 18.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--

Please delete the following paragraphs beginning on line 24 of page 13:

~~-- Legends to the figures~~

~~**Figure 1:** Isolation of monokaryotic strain deficient in laccase activity.~~

~~**Figure 2:** Isolation of the gene encoding for the laccase of *Pycnoporus cinnabarinus* laccase.~~

Figure 3: Southern blot study of the gene encoding for the laccase of *Pycnoporus cinnabarinus*.

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Figure 12: Sequence of the gene encoding for the laccase of *halocyphina villosa*.--